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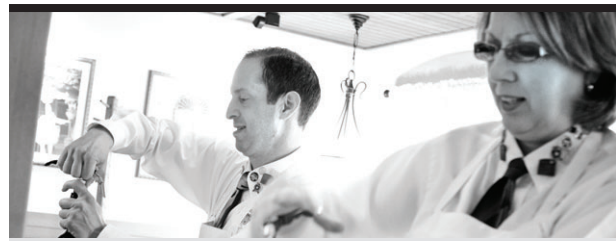


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OLIVER GARDEN | PAGE 9



SOCCER PLAYER TURNS RUNNER | SPORTS



PROFESSOR LOOKS TO ADD CLASSES | PAGE 12

Topperette changes bring costs, benefits

Some question the price of new team image

By MANDY SIMPSON
news@chherald.com

To some, the changes to this year's Topperette dance team seemed subtle — fewer girls, a new coach, different costumes.

But to Coach Candice Tope and Lindsay Thomas, director of marketing and promotions for Western Athletics, this rebuilding year has made all the difference.

Thomas said she noticed more fans sacrificing their half-time concessions to watch the Topperettes perform one of about 12 power-packed routines they practiced for hours each week.

"I can't tell you how many fans have come up and said, 'I love that routine. That routine was awesome,'" Tope said.

A series of these fresh routines ranging from pom to jazz to hip-hop graced the basketball floor and football field this year.

A budget resting comfortably in the black provided all Topperettes with necessary performance attire and each Topperette who met the team requirements with a small scholarship, Thomas said.

SEE TOPPERETTE, PAGE 13

Student reflects on new admissions standards

By SHAKIA HARRIS
news@chherald.com

Louisville Colby Moore doesn't want to become another statistic.

Moore is currently a student at Bowling Green Community College and expects to earn a grade point average higher than 3.0 this semester.

But even though Moore is on the right track now, he said it took him a while to get focused and take school seriously.

"I saw college as a second chance because I messed up in high school," Moore said.

And Moore said he wouldn't have had a chance of getting into Western under the university's newly implemented admission standards.

SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE 5



TANNER CURTIS/HERALD

Owensboro junior Tim Hill laughs with Chicago sophomore Samantha Dahlgren and others on the porch of Froggy's the last night the bar was open. The bar closed Friday due to the economy.

Dried up

Four bars make one last call over weekend

By MARY BARCZAK
news@chherald.com

Bowling Green sophomore Ted Gray said he requested to get off work early last Friday so he could go to Froggy's Pizza one last time.

The Brewing Company, Good Tymes 2 and Froggy's closed indefinitely after Friday night, and Three Brothers closed temporarily.

The businesses are owned by Craig Eversoll, who couldn't be reached for comment.

Western graduate Chris Winkler, who was the manager of Brew Co., said the closings are because of the economy.

"People don't have the money to go out anymore," he said. "Kids have to work for their own money now."

Sharon Weber, case manager at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Louisville, said a Craig A. Eversoll in Bowling Green filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy on Feb. 17 this year.

David Lyne, occupational license

Closed near campus

- **Froggy's Pizza**
1265 College St.
closed indefinitely
- **The Brewing Company**
423 Park Row
closed indefinitely
- **Good Tymes 2**
21607 U.S. 31W Bypass
closed indefinitely
- **Three Brothers**
330 E. Main St.
closed temporarily

manager at the City Hall Annex, said Froggy's, Good Tymes 2 and Brew Co. had a state liquor license that expired on April 30, 2010. He said his office hasn't received any notification of a renewal for the license or a closure of the businesses.

Lyne said the businesses' city liquor license is still valid and paid for through June 30.

Winkler, from Hendersonville,

Tenn., said he's been working for Brew Co. for about three years.

He said he's confident someone else will take over the establishment under a new name after awhile.

"This is a gold mine," he said. "There's money to be made here."

Phillip Carter, one of the managers at Froggy's, couldn't be reached for comment.

Joey Sylve, the former manager of Good Tymes 2, said he was not authorized to answer questions referring to why the businesses closed, in a Facebook message.

Gray said he heard Froggy's was closing after talking to a bartender.

"It's very sudden," Gray said. "It tore a lot of people apart."

He said he's sad the business closed, because no one else can make his favorite pizza, buffalo chicken pizza, the way Froggy's did.

Froggy's was a "staple" for Western, Gray said.

SEE BAR, PAGE 3

Weekend weather continues to affect community

By TESSA DUVAL
news@chherald.com

Kasey Bishop, a sophomore from Jacksonville, Fla., was worried about her car this weekend.

Bishop was in Florida visiting family. Her car was parked at the Nashville International Airport. Nashville — along with much of the region — had been hit by record-breaking rainfall and overwhelmed with flood waters.

Southwest Airlines canceled all flights in and out of Nashville on Sunday, but Bishop said she was able to catch a 7:30 a.m. flight back to Nashville on Monday. Her car wasn't damaged.

"I think it's crazy," Bishop said. "I knew we were supposed to have bad weather up there this weekend, but I didn't know it'd be this extreme."

Bishop is among students and members of the Bowling Green community who were affected by this weekend's weather.

According to reports on the National Weather Service Web site, there was a total of 9.67 inches of rainfall over the two-day period of Saturday and Sunday.

This was the greatest two-day rainfall in the history of Bowling Green since records began in 1870, according to the Web site.

The 4.92 inches of rain that fell on Sunday also broke the one-day record for May 2 of 1.28 inches set in 1984, according to the Web site.

The heavy rainfall had noticeable and even damaging effects in the area.

Library Security Coordinator Doug Wiles said there is flooding in the Leadership Studies Center on the first floor of Cravens Library.

The flooding began some time Saturday night, but was not discovered until about 11 a.m. Sunday when Wiles came into work.

SEE WEATHER, PAGE 7



BEN SEVERANCE/HERALD

Brandon Humphries of Bowling Green takes a breath before diving to see how deep the water is behind his apartment off Nashville Road on Sunday. The water behind Humphries' apartment rose quickly and flooded the basements in the group of apartment buildings where he lives. The water was well beyond Humphries head in the middle of his backyard.



a thousand words

By JOSH MAUSER

Every year the infield at the Kentucky Derby attracts racing fans from all over Kentucky. This year, despite the rainy weather forecast, thousands of people came to witness the so-called "greatest two minutes in sports," even if they weren't watching the race.

Two girls jumping in some mud in the infield were surrounded by many cheering people. The crowd continued yelling as the girls battled until one was deemed the winner.

Adding to the atmosphere were several people who ran on top of the portable toilets. Some of the crowd turned their attention and cheers to that area of the infield.

The rain and chaotic activity of the infield didn't let up until minutes before the horses loaded into the gates for the 136th Kentucky Derby.

"A Thousand Words" is a weekly photo essay that tells untold stories on the edges of campus.

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CRIME REPORTS

Reports

- JaQuentin Jenkins and Christian Graham, both of Barnes-Campbell Hall, reported on April 30 that their laptops were stolen from their dorm room. The value of the theft was \$1,000.
- Associate English Professor Alexander Poole reported on April 30 that his personal laptop was stolen from his office. The value of the theft was \$400.
- Sven Patrick Schmidt, McCormack Hall, reported on April 29 that several items were stolen from his dorm. The value of the theft was \$2,965.
- Drew Cassidy, Smiths Grove, reported on April 29 that his backpack was stolen from the lockers outside the multi-

purpose room of the Preston Center. The value of the theft was \$506.75.

Arrests

- Clay Goodson was arrested on May 1 and charged with criminal trespassing after checking out of Rodes-Harlin Hall. He was released on May 2 on a \$70 cash bond.
- William Roger Stoll was arrested on May 1 and charged with public intoxication outside of Froggy's Pizza. Stoll is still being held in Warren County Regional Jail.
- Velisha Vanmeter was arrested on April 30 and charged with being under the influence of alcohol in a public place after being observed urinating in the Jr Food Stores parking lot on 13th and Center streets. She was released on May 1 on time served.

You've been CAUGHT!



Thanks for reading the Herald,
we'll see you in the fall!

University lawsuits to continue over summer

By LAUREL WILSON
news@chherald.com

Western will be going into the summer with several unfinished lawsuits.

Junlian Zhang vs. Western

Junlian Zhang, a former Western employee who worked in the Institute for Combustion Studies and Environmental Technology, filed suit in November 2007, alleging that she was fired because of her gender and pregnancy. The trial has been postponed twice and is now set for Sept. 14, said Pamela Bratcher, Zhang's attorney. The trial was pushed back because Wei-Ping Pan, the director of ICSET who made the decision to fire Zhang, wasn't available during the original trial dates, Bratcher said. A pretrial conference will take place tomorrow, when a decision will be made about Western's motion for summary judgement, which calls for the

lawsuit to be dismissed, Western's attorney Greg Stivers said. The motion states that Zhang doesn't have enough proof to support her claim of pregnancy discrimination and that Western had legitimate reasons for firing Zhang. Zhang was fired because she didn't perform her essential job functions even before she announced her pregnancy, according to the motion. Bratcher said she filed a response to the motion saying that there are still issues that need to be worked out. She said she's certain that the case won't be dismissed at the pretrial conference tomorrow. Gina Brown vs. Western Gina Brown, former director of development for Athletics, filed suit against Western on March 19, claiming she was treated unfairly because of her gender, race and age. Last month, Western filed a motion

for more definite statement, asking Brown to provide more information about her allegations, Stivers said. Brown's complaint didn't make the discrimination facts clear, he said. A judge granted Western's motion on April 19, giving Brown 30 days to provide more information. Brown hasn't done so yet, and until she does, Western can't file a response, Stivers said. Western vs. Clark, et al. There are two parts to this case involving the Clark family, who owned property at 1672 Normal St., which Western took by eminent domain in order to build the new College of Education and Behavioral Sciences building. In the first part of the case, the Clarks allege that the taking of their property was unjustifiable and that Western acted in bad faith during the negotiations, said Deborah Wilkins, chief of staff and general counsel, in

an e-mail. In February, the Kentucky Court of Appeals upheld the Circuit Court's ruling that Western was entitled to take the property, Wilkins said. The Clarks have filed a motion for the Kentucky Supreme Court to review that decision, although no action has been taken yet, she said. The second part of the case is about the value of the property, which will be determined in a jury trial on July 15, Wilkins said. Elizabeth Esters vs. Western Elizabeth Esters, who worked as a staff assistant to President Gary Ransdell and secretary to the Board of Regents, filed suit against Western in October 2009, claiming she was forced to retire early. The case was moved from Warren Circuit Court to Franklin Circuit Court last summer, and no trial date has been set, Wilkins said.

BARS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"It's not just a bar," he said. "You can come and hang out and bring your parents." Gray said the closing is "unfair" to college students, because it provided a good mix for a college hangout. "You could dance, come and hang out, and there was live music every night," he said. Gray said he's disappointed the business closed when it did because a lot of students went there after graduation to celebrate with friends and alumni. Paducah senior Cheyenna King, a regular at Froggy's, said she heard about the closing through Facebook. "I thought it was a hoax," she said. King said several of her friends recently were talking about how it was stupid to join Facebook groups, so when she saw them joining Froggy's groups, she thought it was a joke. A Facebook event, called "SAVE FROGGY'S," was created by Chris Howe, Stephen Racz and Gray last Thursday night after they found out it was closing, Racz said. The event encouraged people to support Froggy's and share memories. Some of the description about the event reads, "We've all made friends, we've all shared memories (and pitchers), this bar's been WKU's home base for years. It's a place for love, it's a place for pizza, and it's a place to sit back and relax with people that know your name." King said she went to Froggy's a couple of times a week. She said she likes its friendly atmosphere. "I've met so many people here by just running into them," King said. Racz, a Bowling Green resident, said he went to Froggy's about two to three times a week. He said he's met some of his best friends at Froggy's. "After football games and parents weekend, where do you go?" he said. "Not Brew Co., because it's loud with dancing, but here you can just chill and sit and watch TV or hang out with your friends." Paducah junior Colby Holt said he liked that Froggy's was a college bar and hang-out that was right down the street from campus. "It's the end of an era," Holt said. "It's not going to be part of the vernacu-

“It’s not just a bar. You can come and hang out and bring your parents.” —TED GRAY Bowling Green sophomore

lar of Bowling Green anymore." Steven Williams, a Bowling Green junior and DJ for Eversoll's businesses, said he was surprised at the large turnout on Friday night. "I have never seen this before unless it's a big event like St. Patrick's Day or Cinco de Mayo," Williams said. He said he's not worried about finding a job. As a college student, though, Williams agrees that this will effect Western's college scene. "It's going to suck having nowhere to go and chill for 20 minutes and then go to class," he said. "This is the only bar open during the day with this atmosphere." Lisa Tracey, the former owner of Three Brothers, said last Friday night was her last night as owner. The bar has closed temporarily until its new owner, Amie Gammon, takes over, she said. Tracey didn't renew her liquor license. "It's time to retire I think," she said. Lyne said Amie Gammon applied to be the new licensee of Three Brothers on April 13. Gammon's lease for the building started on May 1, he said. Lyne said the document states Gammon will reopen the bar as Three Brothers II. Barry Pruitt, the public information officer for the Bowling Green Police Department, said he thinks there's a chance there could be more house parties because of the bar closings. He said he thinks that other businesses downtown may benefit. Steve Ellis, the manager of Ellis Place/State Street Pub, said he thinks the closings may benefit his business. "With that many businesses closing, I think that it will help our business for awhile," he said.



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STAFF EDITORIAL

Free for all

As graduation nears, Career Services is a good resource

THE ISSUE: With graduation looming next weekend, if reality hasn't set in for students that the future is here, it will soon. But it seems students aren't familiar with the resources that Western's Career Services Center has to offer.

OUR VIEW: In a time when jobs are a precious commodity, it takes extra effort on behalf of students to be proactive in finding career opportunities.

A report released earlier this semester by Western said nearly 15 percent of December 2009 graduates were still unemployed.

A larger graduating class will enter the workforce on May 15, making jobs even more difficult to get.

Sometimes it just takes a good connection or good networking to land a job. Those who were a bit slow on the job hunt should take advantage of all the employment aid and opportunities the Career Services Center provides.

Career Services is located in the Downing University Center. Students don't use the center enough, but it provides several services that can make the transition to the job world more successful for recent grads.

Students can access the Career Services Web site through Western's home page and find links to information on networking, forming a resume and how to prepare for an interview.

For students who don't know where to start when it comes to job searching, the Career Services Web site allows users to upload their career portfolios and search for jobs through TopJobs.

Career Services also hold job fairs, where students have access to employers and networking and resume building information sessions.



Some students might not know Career Services exists or what they do. Representatives from the center could speak to senior capstone classes and others to get the word out about how they can help students find work.

With the use of the resources Career Services Center offers, hopefully that more than 14 percent unemployment rate for Western grads will be lower in the future.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 11-member editorial board.

people POLL

What's the best or worst thing President Obama has done while prepping for finals?



BO ARMSTRONG
Owensboro
freshman

"What if you don't study?"



MORGAN UTLET
Morganfield
freshman

"I really don't do anything different."



GRANT BURKEEN
Bowling Green
sophomore

"I listen to music, but I don't want to admit what kind and be attached to it."



REBECCA BUCKMAN
Waverly
freshman

"It has to be dead silent. I just have to be alone."

have an opinion?

Write a letter to the editor (250 words or less) or a commentary (500 words and a photo). E-mail them to opinion@chherald.com.

COMMENTARY

Advising options for exploratory students

What does it mean to be an Exploratory student at WKU? For those that don't know, Exploratory is the new name for undeclared. Exploratory programs are available in each college, and students can also be generally undeclared in the Academic Advising and Retention Center (AARC). Exploratory students, like other students, are required to meet with their academic advisor each semester (until they have 90 hours AND have filed an application for graduation). This meeting for Exploratory students isn't just to aid in course selection for the upcoming term; it is also to assist in the exploration process of selecting a major.

As an advisor in AARC, it is my job to help students choose classes that can narrow their major choices, but will also fulfill General Education Requirements. If students come to



LONDA N. HOLDER
Academic advisor,
Exploratory Program,
Academic Advising
and Retention Center

their advising appointment with majors of interests, the student and I can then choose a class that will introduce them to the major, all the while aiding them toward degree completion. For example, if a student is interested in Social Work, they can take SWRK-101. This course can provide insight into the Social Work major while also fulfilling the requirements for the Social and Behavioral Sciences category of general education.

If a student comes to an advising appointment without any majors of interest then I would suggest the student begin by thinking about subjects or careers of interests. I would also suggest the student set up an appointment with Career Services Center to discuss fields that may be of interest to them. The student can then choose a major that will direct them

toward their career of choice.

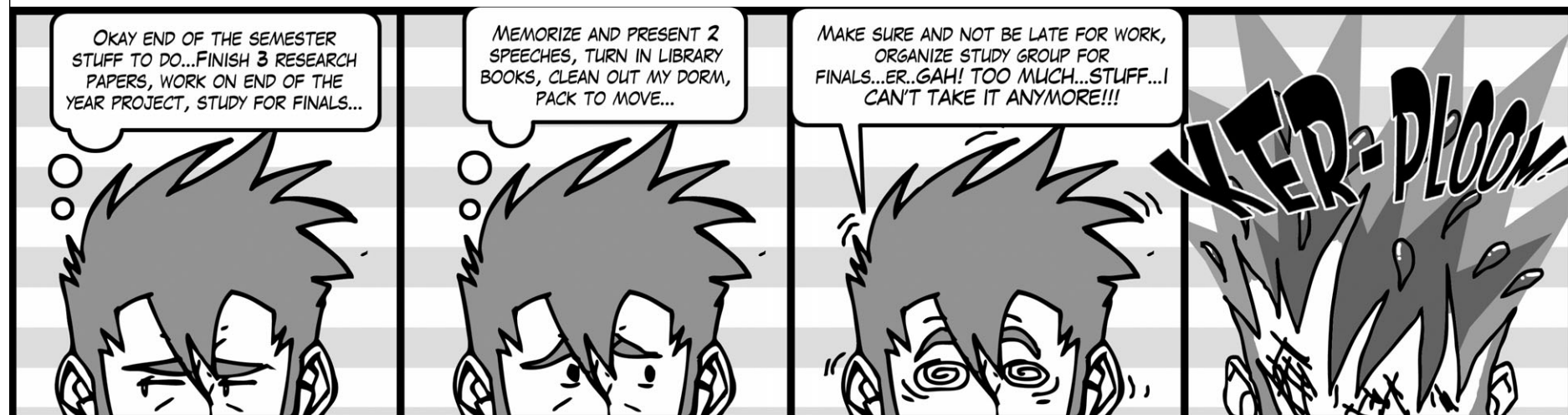
Exploratory students are encouraged to visit the Exploratory Webpage (www.wku.edu/exploratoryprogram) for ideas on ways to explore their majors. Here, among other things, the students can view what majors, a contact person for each major, and updates on any events that may aid in the exploration process. AARC hosts the Majors and Minors Fair each Fall, and this can be a key event in major exploration.

Overall it is important for students to know that advisors are an integral part of the major exploration process. We are here to aid students in choosing a major and career, not just their classes. While it is true we can't make the decision for the student, we can offer much guidance along the way.

This commentary doesn't necessarily represent the views of the Herald or the university.

Annie's OUTLOOK

A cartoon strip by Annie Erskine



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SUBMISSIONS
The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:
1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be about 500 words.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include

your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.
6. Letters and commentaries must be received by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

Officials to dedicate chapel Friday

By LAUREL WILSON
news@chherald.com

Administrators and donors are about to see their efforts to build an interfaith chapel on campus pay off.

The dedication for the Chandler Memorial Chapel and Columbarium will take place on Friday at 2 p.m., said John Paul Blair, assistant vice president for Institutional Advancement.

“It’s very gratifying and exciting for everyone involved,” Blair said.

The primary use of the chapel will be for the campus community to have a place for quiet reflection and special events, such as weddings and funerals, Blair said.

Student faith groups will be able to use it, but there won’t be regular religious meetings, because officials want to leave it open most of the time for everyone to use for private reflection, he said.

The chapel will add an important spiritual aspect to campus, said Tom Hiles, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

“This has been kind of a dream for many of our donors,” he said.

There have been people from many different religions supporting the project, Hiles said.

Blair said nobody has come forward with reservations about having a chapel on campus or been against the idea.

More than \$2.1 million in gifts and pledges was

raised by 90 donors for the project, Blair said.

It’s often challenging to get funding for capital projects, but since the chapel had to be built entirely with private funds, people have been responsive, Blair said.

The chapel will be officially open after Friday’s dedication, Hiles said.

The building is mostly complete, though the construction crew might have a few minor details to finish, Blair said.

Events have already been scheduled for this summer, including a wedding and an interment into the columbarium, Blair said.

The columbarium has a total of 280 niches, which each can hold two urns.

So far, 25 niches have been sold, Blair said.

Western alumnus Bob Kirby has been active in several areas at the university, including serving on the chapel committee, which made all of the decisions regarding the selection of the architect, design and furnishings for the chapel, Kirby said.

Kirby and his wife, Norma, also made a donation to the chapel, he said.

Working on the project has been the most enjoyable thing he’s done at Western, and he thinks it’s going to be a great addition to the campus, Kirby said.

“It’s a place to go and get things off your mind,” he said. “I see it as a combination of various uses for many people.”



KELLY LAFFERTY/HERALD

Louisville freshman Colby Moore takes notes as he listens to the lecture in his sociology class at South Campus. Moore got a 12 on the ACT, which would now fall below Western's new admission requirement.

ADMISSIONS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Beginning this fall, high school students seeking admission to Western are required to have either a 2.0 GPA or a cumulative ACT score of 16. The ACT requirement will increase by one point each year until it reaches 20 in 2014.

Admissions Director Scott Gordon said that, a year ago, students could be admitted to Western with either a cumulative ACT score of 15 or a 2.0 unweighted GPA.

Compared to previous years, less than 100 students would be affected by the change, President Gary Ransdell said.

Moore hadn’t planned on going to college until he had found out that his mother secretly applied to Western for him and his twin brother, Carlos Moore, just two weeks before classes were scheduled to start.

Moore said his mom chose Western because, with his 1.9 GPA and cumulative ACT score of 12, Western was the only school they knew of that he could get into.

“In high school, I was worried about money and all the wrong things — I wasn’t too concerned about grades,” he said. “I didn’t even read

the questions on the ACT, I just filled in answers.”

Moore said he received his wake-up call to do well in school after his mother lost her job and his family began to experience financial problems.

“I wanted to quit school to help her pay for it, but she told me stay at Western, and I thank her for that,” he said.

Most people don’t realize how dropping out of school will affect their future until they try to come back and finish their degrees later, Moore said.

“There are already so many statistics right now about how black men have low college graduation rates, and I didn’t want to be another statistic,” he said.

Once he receives his final grades, Moore is applying to Western’s main campus.

Gordon said the community college won’t exist after July 1 because it is merging with the University College.

Tim Brotherton, a member of the academic support division at BGCC, said the community college is facing an internal reorganization.

The community college will be renamed the Commonwealth School, and faculty members will function like they had before, he said.

The switch wouldn’t cause significant job loss, Ransdell said.

Statistics presented last year by the Task Force for Quality and Access examined the effects of raising admission standards, and illustrated that a small portion of students would be affected, Brotherton said.

He said some students have already been notified that they didn’t meet the requirements for the fall.

If students were already admitted into the community college, their admission status won’t change as long as they maintain a 2.0 GPA and other academic guidelines, Brotherton said.

If students are already admitted, they must maintain a GPA high enough to graduate from Western.

Moore said that, although he believes raising standards is a must for Western, he thought that requiring a cumulative ACT score of 20 was excessive.

He said he thinks merging the community college with the main campus is a good idea, because it could motivate the students to perform better.

He described some of the coursework he does at the community college as easy and comparable to the work he did in high school.

“I think a lot of people over at South Campus don’t care and they’re just doing enough to get by,” Moore said. “I want a challenge. I don’t want it to be this easy because life isn’t easy.”

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WEATHER
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The flooding seemed to be the result of groundwater coming into Cravens, and as of Sunday night, the water was still flowing in, he said.

Wiles said they are now waiting for the water table to drop so clean-up efforts can begin.

For now, the center is closed off and will remain so for an undetermined amount of time, he said.

Flood waters have also impacted students trying to get around on campus.

Emmett Wood, public works director for the city of Bowling Green, said Regents Avenue was closed Sunday night because it was under a couple of feet of water.

By Monday morning,

the water receded, and one lane opened, Wood said. The other lane did not open until a utilities trench for the new College of Education building was repaired.

Ben Johnson, assistant director of Planning, Design and Construction, said that despite the flooding on Regents Avenue, the new College of Education building had no issues.

Although Regents Avenue is a city road, Western keeps an eye on conditions on the road and advises the city, Johnson said.

Keirsten Jagers, information officer for district three of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, said Monday that there was still water on Nashville Road between Emmett Avenue and Loving Way, but that the road was open and passable.



BEN SEVERANCE/HERALD

Western facilities workers survey the damage at the blocked off entrance to the first floor of Cravens library on Sunday after heavy rain caused flooding problems. Western's maintenance crews were first alerted to the situation early Sunday morning and were still working to clean up on Monday afternoon.



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Gordon Ford College of Business Recognizes the Accomplishment of the Following Individuals During 2009-2010

Student Recognition

Aaron Pawley - Eaton Student Leadership Award

Hanh T. Vu - The Wall Street Journal Award in Economics
"Best Paper" Awards in Economics

First: Thomas Bullen IV
Second: James P. Shaw
Third: Chase E. Goff

Jeremy A. Jenkins - The Wall Street Journal Award in Finance
Delta Sigma Pi Golden Key Awards

Kathryn Burchfield
David R. Jenkins

Faculty & Staff Recognition

Dr. Claudia Strow - Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Johnny Chan - Faculty Research & Creativity Award

Dr. Cathy Carey - Faculty Public Service Award

Mr. Allan Hall - Faculty Student Advisement Award

Dr. Shane Spiller - MBA Teaching Award

Dr. Shane Spiller - Hays Watkins Faculty Fellow in Teaching

Dr. Afzalur Rahim - Hays Watkins Faculty Fellow in Research

Dr. Roy Howsen - Lou Prida Student Service Award

Mr. John Grider - Alumni Award

Mr. Donovan Schultz - Recent Alumni Award

Dr. Ray Blankenship - Gordon & Glenda Ford Award for Faculty Excellence

Dr. Dan Myers - Vitale Award for Initiative, Innovation & Leadership

Mr. Cody Turner - Anne & Dan Greenwell Staff Award

Student Leadership

A. Clinton McRay - Financial Management Association Award

David A. Ciochetty - Outstanding MBA Student

Brittany T. Kittleman - Robert W. Jefferson 2009-10 Outstanding Graduating Senior

Kathryn A. Burchfield - Dean's Student Achievement Award

Outstanding Juniors

Accounting - **Laura Leigh Zimmerman**

Economics - **George W. Callis**

Finance - **Jia Li**

Information Systems - **Christopher M. Vincent**

Management - **Kirsten H. Belt**

Outstanding Seniors

Accounting - **Shannon N. Smith**

Business Administration - **Christopher N. Hodgkins**

Information Systems - **Nichole L. Daly**

Economics - **Chase E. Goff**

Entrepreneurship - **Jennifer L. Spidle**

Financial Management - **Vi T. Le**

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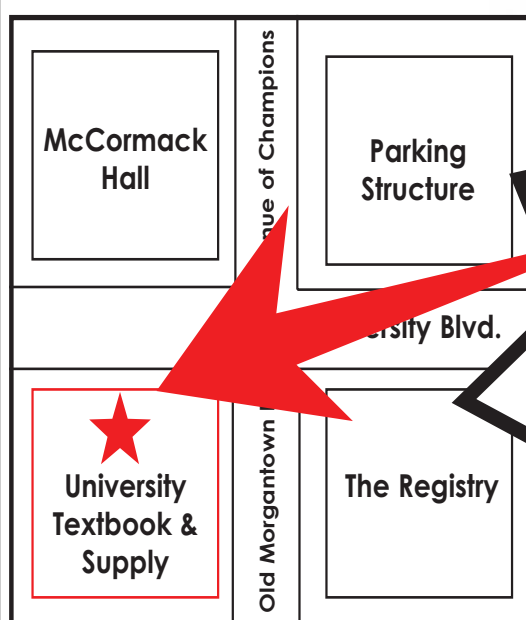
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Olive Garden reopens in BG

By CRISTEN FRIDDELL
news@chherald.com

Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, 3220 Scottsville Road, opened its doors on Monday night for the first time.

Director of Operation Pam Denton said she was excited to have Olive Garden return to Bowling Green after one of the restaurants closed in the area in 2001.

“We know all of Bowling Green is excited,” she said while bouncing on the balls of her feet. “We always like to look for communities to build in.”

The restaurant is built in the Tuscany-inspired “farmhouse” style Olive Garden adopted in 2001.

Patrick Harrison, general manager of a neighboring Olive Garden, came by to help with the opening of the Bowling Green addition.

He said he returned from Olive Garden’s Culinary Institute of Tuscany in March 2009.

The institute teaches Olive Garden chefs the secrets of great Italian food such as the different combinations of food, wine and flavors, according to the Web site.

“In Tuscan restaurants, everything is

complemented by a great wine,” Harrison said, as he held his hands in front of him as if he were holding a dish.

In Tuscany, restaurants make every effort provide a home-style setting, an idea that Olive Garden has brought with them to the U.S., he said.

The servers in Tuscany don’t wear uniforms to work in order to promote a relaxed atmosphere, Denton said.

Harrison said he hopes to bring the pride and passion of Tuscan chefs to Bowling Green.

The new restaurant has 165 employees, or “team members”, including some Western students, Denton said.

“We have been working here for four weeks,” she

said. “We are looking forward to opening our doors.”

Olive Garden will be open for dinner at 4 p.m every night through Friday. Saturday and Sunday, the restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner on Mother’s Day.

Olive Garden is owned by Darden Restaurants, which also owns Red Lobster and Longhorn Steak House.

The menu features pasta, seafood, wines and desserts, according to the Web site.

If you go

- **What:** Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
- **Where:** 3220 Scottsville Road
- **When:** 4 p.m every night this week through Friday and for lunch and dinner on Saturday and Sunday for Mother’s Day
- **For reservations,** call (270) 782-6051.

SGA aims to redefine campus style with Western T-shirt swap

By EMILY WADLEY
news@chherald.com

Western’s Student Government Association is trying to make school pride more visible on campus.

SGA is sponsoring a T-shirt swap where students can trade in shirts with other university’s logos for a Western shirt.

Emmy Woosley, head of the student affairs committee, introduced the idea of the swap. Woosley could not be reached for comment by press time.

Executive Vice President Kendrick Bryan said the shirts collected from the swap will be donated to a philanthropy, but they don’t know which one yet.

Bryan said students will be able to exchange shirts in the SGA office during finals week.

The SGA office, located in Room 130 of the Downing University Center, will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday during finals week, according to President-Elect Colton Jessie.

Bryan said SGA is planning on having an event near Java City in Helm Library during the extended library hours of finals week, but a specific day has not been set.

Bardstown junior Andrew Cusick said he would participate in the T-shirt swap.

“I think it’s a good idea because a lot of people don’t really support Western with what they wear.”

—ANDREW CUSICK
Bardstown junior

“I think it’s a good idea because a lot of people don’t really support Western with what they wear,” he said.

Cusick added that he sees more University of Kentucky and University of Louisville shirts on campus than Western shirts.

Bowling Green freshman Sam Kissinger said he liked the idea of the T-shirt swap.

Kissinger said he would trade in a shirt from another school for a Western shirt.

He said he notices a lot of students wearing clothing from other universities.

“... My fraternity brother wears a UK shirt every day,” he said.



TANNER CURTIS/HERALD

From left, Kris Chari, of Middletown, Ohio, and Janie McNeely, of Cincinnati, open wine bottles to prepare for the opening of Olive Garden on Scottsville Road Monday. McNeely said guests will be greeted by their host with a bottle of wine.

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First generation students stay motivated

By ZIRCONIA ALLEYNE
diversions@chherald.com

When one of Kendra Coleman’s close friends got pregnant her freshman year and dropped out to go back home, Coleman said she promised herself she’d never take school for granted. Coleman, a Nashville sophomore, is a first-generation college students. She said she isn’t involved in any programs that specifically cater to first-generation students but has found help from other areas. “First generation college students don’t really have people to go to; others can call up their mom and dad for advice,” Coleman said. According to the 2009 WKU Fact Book, 14.9 percent of first-time first-year college students were black, and that number has increased 21 percent since the fall of 2008. With the growth of minority students on campus, there’s a growing need for programs to help them along the way. Jackie Pillow, the assistant director of the Office of Diversity programs, said programs such as “The Come Up” and “Project CLASS” focus on developing professional skills for minority students. “I don’t know that they do better or worse, but they definitely feel the pressures from home to succeed,” Pillow said. “My advice is to come for yourself and your interests, not for what your family

wants you to do.” Coleman said she leans on her faith and has formed a mentoring relationship with Ta’Neka Vaden, a nurse practitioner at Health Services and adviser for Fixed on Christ and Unified Service, or F.O.C.U.S. Vaden was also a first-generation student at University of Louisville. “I like what she’s doing with her life,” Coleman said. “She’s still in school, and she’s a good Christian woman.” Both Coleman and Louisville junior Darien Green, also a first-generation student, are involved in F.O.C.U.S. bible study at the Baptist Campus Ministry. Student Support Services also plays a part in Coleman’s college journey. SSS has helped her get classes she needs for her major in exceptional education, create better study habits, stay motivated and attend different events on campus for free. “They go beyond means to help us,” Coleman said. At a young age, Green admired his older cousins who went to college and knew he wanted to go to school and become a Christian music minister. He wanted to achieve something that nobody else in his family had. “My family was very excited,” he said. “My mom was proud, because I’m her oldest and first to go to college.” Despite his difficulties, Green



CHRIS WILSON/HERALD

Louisville junior Darien Green is a first generation college student studying social work at Western. His parents wanted him to go to college, he said, and he originally went to Campbellsville University before transferring here. “I knew that college was a must,” Green said. “But deciding where was a struggle.”

said he’s determined, especially to pass biology, which he has taken three times to get a better grade. “I know it is God who’s keeping me motivated,” he said. Vaden said she’s proud of Coleman and Green for succeeding against the odds. “Education is invaluable, so when you come to school and slack off and don’t take that ad-

vantage, you’re making it harder on yourself and future generations,” Vaden said. “I think if people knew the influence they have on others, they would take it a lot more seriously.” Though some first-generation college students may have rough experiences that drive them away, others say the hard times keep them motivated.

“College isn’t easy for anyone, but being the first in my family just makes me want a degree more,” said Petre Freeman, a junior from Louisville. Freeman said her years on the Hill have been some of the most fun of her life. “I’m not going to quit — I can’t,” she said. “I have little sisters who look up to me.”

COLUMN

Cheap Bowling Green dates

Going to the movies and eating dinner at nice restaurants are classic, fail-free dates. But the routine can get boring for a couple seeking excitement. After exploring Bowling Green, the Herald has found some inexpensive and entertaining ways to spend summer days with your honey.

The Paint’n Place

The Paint’n Place at 1243 Magnolia St. is a quaint shop where couples can paint household items such as mugs, picture frames and wall decorations. You can choose from several shelves of pottery waiting to be decorated or the discounted items bin. The owner, Linda Henry, has just remodeled her store, expanding it to fit 12 more painters inside and even more outside on a patio with umbrella-covered tables. Fun summer colors like yellow and orange give the store a whimsical atmosphere and matched Henry’s bright service. **Price:** \$10 and up **Task:** Paint something special for the one you love. **Extras:** A Western ID gets you 10 percent off.

Race World

A track snakes through the grass behind the indoor arcade at Race World, located right off I-65 at 255 Cumberland



HANNA DEMIRJIAN
diversions@chherald.com

Trace. The music and the buzz of the motors will make you feel like a front-row spectator of a Nascar race. **Price:** \$6 for single car, \$7 for double car **Task:** Make a friendly wager with your mate to see who pays for dinner after the race. **Extras:** You can win tickets for prizes at the arcade; it’ll make you feel like a kid again.

KOA Kampgrounds

Down Three Springs Road is KOA Kampgrounds, which offers many activities in addition to camping, including an 18-hole miniature golf course, which is open all year. Other summer-only special events include scavenger hunts and movie showings. There are paddleboat races where you and your mate can float on the small, scenic lake. Just make sure the rain is long gone, or your boating date will become a swim meet. **Price:** \$6 and up **Task:** Make a few hole-in-one shots, then relax and make a few waves on the lake. **Extras:** Friday night hayrides are the perfect end to a romantic evening. Bowling Green offers several options for pleasurable outings that fit the typical college student budget. So have a little fun this summer with your love and do more than just dinner and a movie.

NEWS BRIEF

Campus dining might see changes next fall

Campus dining may undergo some changes by next fall. Dining Services Director Tim Colley said there are proposed changes which would allow for more flexibility with meal plan dollars. Meal plan dollars would be available for use in more locations and made available on more meal plans, he said. New businesses that come to campus may be more meal plan dollar-driven as opposed to meal swipes, Colley said.

It’s likely that Papa John’s will come to campus, Colley said. Java City in Helm Library will be completely renovated, including the lower floor and the lounge upstairs, he said. This renovation is the result of a partnership with the Student Government Association, who originally planned to renovate the lower space on their own, Colley said. There will also be a small coffee shop operation added to the Kentucky Building, called The Garden Cafe, for visitors and tour groups that may go through, Colley said. — Tessa Duwall

GORDON FORD

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Congratulates the 2010 New Members of

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Professor of the Year

Dr. Rick Aldridge, *Accounting*

Dr. Tom Noser, *Economics*

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Kevin Hawkins

Derrick Helm

Anh Nguyen

Allison Ross

Nathan Sprague

Michael Steidl

Megan Talley, *second recognition*

Trang Vo

Todd Wilder

Senior Initiates

Michael Barrick

Erica Cameron

Lindsay Daniels

Kurt Dryden

Justin Gregory

Carolyn Hagan

Jeremy Jenkins

Stephanie Johnson

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David Scott

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CHH

Professor looks to expand African American studies

By ANGELA OLIVER
diversions@chherald.com

Lloren Foster doesn't hold back. He said he speaks with conviction to make sure people listen.

Though the assistant professor of African-American studies said his approach is abrasive, it has a purpose.

"I have high expectations of my students in class and in life, and I will not lower them," he said. "If I see them acting in a certain way, I will call them out, because I want them to succeed."

Foster, who taught English at Hampton University before coming to Western last August, said he has plans to expand the program.

"You don't often get the opportunity to shape a program," he said. "So I want to make it an integral part of the Western experience."

Foster has begun to promote the program with his Real Talk series, featuring panel forums on topics ranging from leadership to manhood.

"It's an interesting response, and word is getting out," Foster said, noting that the audiences have grown from just his students to others on campus. "It's a chance to open up conversations, because if the 'Spirit Makes the Master,' we need to first inform the spirit."

Foster said he appreciates Western's push to internationalize, but he's also a fan of getting comfortable with home.

With field trips to Nashville and Memphis, Foster said he wants to show his students how much history and culture surrounds them.

"Given the unique history of Kentucky, I was excited to see what I could learn and pass to my students who live here and still aren't aware," he said.

The black studies program, headed by Sandra Ardrey, has no base, Foster said. Students who have the program as a minor look forward to its growth.

"I expect it to be offered as a major in the long run," said Louisville senior Brandyn Bailey, who is in one of Foster's classes. "And going on field trips to see black culture in places students are unfamiliar with is wonderful."

Foster said his upbringing in Chicago's Maple Park instilled a sense of community that he tries to bring to teaching.

"Along with my parents, I was surrounded by doctors, teachers, postmen, all in the same neighborhood. They nurtured me, so that sense of giving back was ingrained early," he said. "I'm strong on uplifting my students, because I wouldn't be here if not for people doing the same for me."

His bookshelf is lined with

works from Franz Kafka to Eldridge Cleaver. And he wants to influence students who are just as diverse as his reading collection.

"I hope he will expand the minds of all students, not just blacks," Bailey said.

His fellow Chicago native, Jeremy Thompson, a graduate student who has assisted Foster on the field trips, was on the student committee that selected him.

"There's a demand for black studies classes, and he's definitely bringing his A-game," Thompson said.

New courses, including The Civil Rights Movement and Hip Hop, are in the works for the fall.

Foster said he sees his position as an obligation to his students. He's the only person tenured specifically for the black studies program, unlike some, who teach the program's courses but are based in other departments.

But he doesn't feel restricted by the program's size.

"I have a few connections to make and bank accounts to loot," he said jokingly. "But when we get enough people on board, my intent is for the program to have a strong presence. I want people to get away from the mindset that African-American studies has nothing to do with them."



CHRIS WILSON/HERALD

Lloren Foster, an assistant professor of African American studies, is currently in his first semester at Western and plans on making many changes to the African American studies program. He teaches one class and plans to create five more classes to add to the program, he said.

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WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



ALYSSA ORR/HERALD

Jennifer Thomas, a sophomore from La Porte, Ind., is a political science major interning for the National Archives in Washington D.C. this summer. "I can't wait to be in D.C.," Thomas said. The National Archives contain some of the United States' most important documents, including the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. After Western, Thomas plans on attending law school.

Student lands D.C. internship

By ZIRCONIA ALLEYNE
diversions@chherald.com

Jennifer Thomas, a sophomore from La Porte, Ind., realized her calling while on the debate team during high school.

"Debate got me interested in politics," Thomas said.

She is avid about studying politics, but admits that it can be frustrating at times.

"Politics in general can be irritating, depending on who's presenting it," she said. "You have to have patience with it."

Thomas, who is an Honors Topper, said she still has a lot to learn but will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to be a student worker at the National Archives Building. The building is the home of the U.S. Constitution.

"Working with the Constitution will be a neat experience," she said.

Thomas said she doesn't know what to expect exactly, but she hopes to "get a better understanding of how research in general works in D.C."

Between May and late August, she will be in the city that has housed some of the most influential politicians.

But Thomas said she hasn't been influenced by a politician. She admires the faculty that she has met at Western.

One of her mentors, Dana Bradley, who teaches gerontology, wrote a recommendation for her internship and helped her with her Honors thesis.

Thomas, who is planning a career in geriatric law, declared her minor in gerontology and said Bradley helped her get interested in it.

"She's the whole reason I'm a gerontology minor," Thomas said.

Early in her collegiate journey, she

met Lindsey Westerfield, the admissions counselor for the Honors College.

Westerfield recalled her first time meeting Thomas when she came for a campus tour with her parents.

"I remember her so well," she said. "She sat in my office so excited to be able to take advantage of all her opportunities."

As an Honors Topper, Thomas works with Westerfield to recruit students.

"She's a wonderful asset to the Honors College," Westerfield said.

Thomas said she also appreciates Honors College director Craig Cobane.

"He's helping us get to where we want to be," she said.

Cobane said he thinks highly of Thomas' participation in the Honors College.

"Jennifer personifies the aspects that make WKU students so great," Cobane said. "She is a leader on campus who has a great moral compass."

During her internship, Thomas probably won't be hosting picnics with the president, like she does with the Honors Toppers, but she said she's still ready, no matter the task.

And Cobane said he is confident she will do great work.

"She sees a bigger world," Cobane said, "And wants to be a value added part of it."

Outside of her internship, Thomas plans to spend time with her uncle, who is a head of security at the National Archives Building, and her aunt, who is in protocol at Andrews Air Force Base.

"I've been to D.C. twice before, so I'll be spending some time with her," she said. "I'm ready to see where this summer takes me."

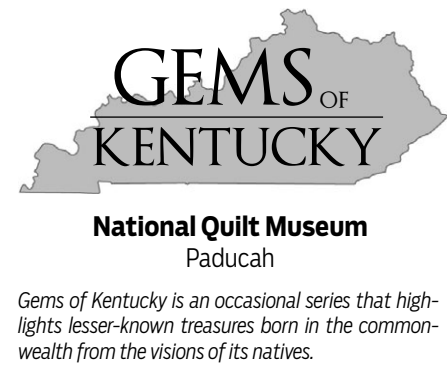
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Avoid the inky fingers and long lines
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Museum attracts quilters from around world

By KATHERINE WADE
diversions@chherald.com

Every year, more than 50,000 people come from across the world to visit, quilt and compete in the “Quilt Capitol of the World.” The National Quilt Museum, located in Paducah, is home to unique quilt exhibits featuring a variety of artists and designers throughout time. Paducah is also the scene of the American Quilter’s Society’s biggest quilting show and competition. The show, in its 26th year, was April 21-24 and offered \$120,000 in prizes to quilters. Bonnie Browning, executive show director for AQS, said there are three main elements that draw people to the show: seeing quilts, shopping from merchants and education. “That’s how we use our energies, to give quilters what they want in those three areas,” she said.



The events during the quilt show include more than 120 different classes relating to different quilting techniques, talks from famous quilters such as Kaffe Fassett and Eleanor Burns and lectures on quilting every other hour. The winner of the quilting competition is announced on the first day of the show, and the quilt joins past winners on display in the museum.

The economic impact of Paducah’s quilt show is huge, Browning said. The last study, which was done two or three years ago, showed that the visitors brought in almost \$20 million in only four days. “It attracts so many people from out of town, and they are bringing in new money,” she said. “They’re going to gas stations, restaurants, hotels, shops ... Paducah is definitely benefiting by having new money that wouldn’t be here otherwise.” Browning, a quilter herself, has written nine books on quilting and judged several competitions. She said quilters always have a good time when they visit Paducah during “quilt season.” “They can’t wait to meet their quilting friends when they haven’t seen them in a year or couple years,” she said. “It’s fun to see sisters, mothers and daughters and friends meet up.” Quilts are displayed on walls throughout the museum, showing an array of col-

ors, patterns and images. Current exhibits at the museum include “New Quilts from an Old Favorite: Sunflower,” “Imagine Hope,” the National Quilt Museum collection and the miniature quilt collection “Oh, Wow!” The museum, which is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, draws visitors from every state and more than 50 different countries. The museum opened in April 1991 with 85 quilts on display, according to quiltmuseum.org. Now the number of quilts, both owned by the museum and on loan, is more than 300. Many quilters, like AQS employee Andi Reynolds, find quilting to be a very relaxing outlet. “Once you start thinking about making a quilt or choosing the fabric, you get very concentrated and focused,” Reynolds said. “Everything that might be troubling just melts away.”

TOPPERETTE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

A team that was as good at dancing as advancing the image of Western emerged, she said. “We are proud of the product we put on the floor,” Thomas said. When the girls weren’t on the sidelines this year, they made appearances at promotional and charity events such as Relay for Life and the Special Olympics, Tope said. As much as they were dancers, they were spokeswomen, Thomas said. But this shift and these improvements didn’t come without cost. The Topperettes didn’t compete in any national or local competitions this year in order to rebuild the team and the budget, Thomas said. A national competition alone can cost about \$20,000. This was a hard sacrifice for seniors dancing as a Topperette for the last time, Tope said. “I love my girls,” she said. “All hard workers, no divas.” Thomas and Tope also made tough decisions at tryouts in order to cut the team from about 50 girls to 21 girls in fall 2009, Thomas said. She said the girls who made the team performed well in the three tryout routine styles — pom, hip-hop and jazz — and displayed the potential to excel in the collegiate dance world. “This is a dance team,” Thomas said. “This isn’t a ballet company or the Rockettes. You have to be able to do all our styles of dance.” In accordance with a new Topperette policy, current team members were not allowed to speak with the Herald, Tope said. The smaller team was the change that stung several former Topperettes the hardest.


Athletes know the feeling — the lonely ache of the final walk off the floor, field, court or stage, said La Grange junior Allison Smith, a former Topperette. The end inevitably arrives. But last May, Smith thought she had the best audition of her life for the Topperettes. She’d been on the team for two years and felt confident that her experience and technical abilities would help her make the cut. She’d also recently secured a nationally competitive position in the Rockette Summer Intensive program. So, with 18 years of turns, leaps, jumps, kicks and choreography under her feet, Smith completed the Topperettes’ two-day tryout, which included dance routines and technical evaluations. Then she waited expectantly for the judges to call her number. One by one, the new Topperettes assembled on the opposite side of the gym. When all the numbers had been called, Smith remained. “I felt my whole team sitting on the other side of that wall, and I wasn’t a part of it,” she said. “It was horrible. I had to stand there and wait to turn in my costumes.” Smith wasn’t alone. About five other Topperette veterans were cut during last year’s tryouts and left confused about what parts of their auditions were inadequate, she said. Smith and fellow former Topperette, Chicago sophomore Alise Hogan, had an idea. “I knew it wasn’t my technique that kept me from making the team,” Smith said. Stephanie Pennington, the team’s head coach for the previous five years, said she decided not to return for the 2009-2010 season in order to focus on teaching at her dance studio, Dynamic Dance. So Thomas organized Topperette tryouts last year, and a new column — which accounted for 30 percent of the dancers’ overall score — appeared on the judges scorecard: “collegiate image,” Thomas said. The image category assessed the neatness of the dancers’ clothing, hair and makeup, and judges explained these expectations to the dancers before tryouts began. “It’s like, if you can write your name on the SAT, you can get points,” Thomas said about the image category. “If you can show up doing what we’ve asked of you, you can get points.” Hogan, who joined the team as a freshman after competing with her state-champion high school dance team in Chicago, felt her body lowered her score in the image section. But she said she knew that was

a possibility when she entered tryouts. “The second I made the team (freshman year), I was told, ‘You need to work out because you aren’t necessarily where we want you to be,’” Hogan said. Hogan had maintained the strong, petite body from her days as a gymnast, and said no one had addressed her about her weight previously. Pennington said she didn’t include the image category when she ran tryouts, but judges conducted interviews with the dancers to ensure they had positive attitudes and good work ethics. Pennington said the new category may reflect a shift in the Topperettes’ main priority from a competing team to a marketing entity. During her last year of coaching, Pennington said she did talk to groups of girls, which included Smith and Hogan, about working out and toning up. She said girls also approached her for exercise advice that would help them feel comfortable in the form-fitting costumes the collegiate dance world requires. “We never said body image is important. We said, ‘You’re going to be out on the floor,’” she said. “It hurts us to see people make comments about them.” But the dancers weren’t the only ones addressed about body image. Pennington said Western marketing personnel spoke with her about the team’s image, which partially motivated her talks with the dancers. “I was talked to about it, comparing it to other dance teams and cheerleading teams where body image was so important, just stressing that it is important,” she said. “It was, ‘Here’s the image that we’re looking for.’” Hogan said she continued to work out with Pennington and the team throughout the year, but, by tryouts last May, her spirits were low. “I knew ‘I’m not going to make it, because I’m not skinny,’” she said. “I just wanted to show that I could dance, that size shouldn’t matter.” The first round of tryouts was judged by Thomas, who represented marketing and had danced throughout high school; Deborah Wilkins, chief of staff and general counsel, who represented Western as a whole; and a former Topperette, Thomas said. For the final round of tryouts, Tope said she also judged. When the judges turned in the score cards, Smith, Hogan and other veterans didn’t make the cut. “That breaks my heart,” Pennington said. “I would have picked every girl that was (formerly) on the team.” Smith requested a post-tryout meeting with Thomas, during which she mentioned that she had worked hard to lose 20 pounds in the past season, she said. “(Thomas) told me to keep doing what I was doing,” Smith said. Thomas said she cannot specifically recall the meeting with Smith, but stressed that she never discussed body image with the dancers. Pennington, who danced on the national championship University of Louisville Ladybirds dance team, said she’s aware of body image pressure collegiate dancers receive and works hard to teach the young girls at her studio to love their bodies no matter what. “It’s hard to see a great high school dancer, who might not make it in the college world because of their body image,” she said. But Thomas and Tope said body image didn’t impact any of the dancer’s scores, and neither has spoken to dancers about their bodies this year. “I tell my girls, ‘I want you to be healthy. I want you to feel comfortable in our costumes,’” Tope said. She said she does emphasize the importance of fitness during conditioning, because of the physical demands of cheering at games. “I’ll say, ‘You walked that lap. I didn’t need you to walk that lap,’” she said.

The Topperettes will host tryouts for the 2010-2011 team May 8 and 9, and they’re keeping their eyes on one prize moving forward, Tope said. Tope said the women will continue their charity work this summer with appearances at the Boys and Girls Club in Glasgow, and they’ll continue working toward the highest honor in collegiate dance. “At the end of the day our goal is go out there and win a national championship,” Thomas said.

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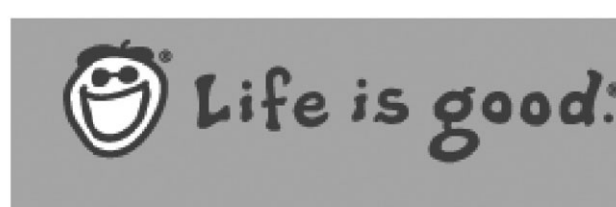
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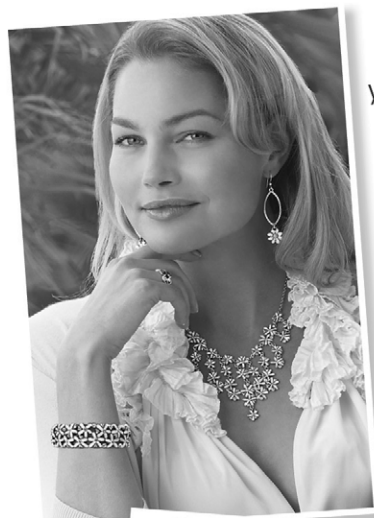


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TRACK & FIELD

Track seniors looking to cement a legacy

By M. BLAKE HARRISON
sports@chherald.com

This weekend’s Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Championships will be significant for a number of reasons. The meet presents a shot at perfection for the women’s team, as it goes for a 14th-straight outdoor league title.

Senior sprinter Kellie Morrison, who has never lost a conference championship at Western, said she’s making extra preparations to keep that legacy in tact.

“It’s motivating me to compete harder than I normally do,” Morrison said. “It’s giving me something to put all my energy all out on. I think I’ve prepared myself much harder to stay focused.”

Throwing coach Craig Morehead said the women’s streak has both advantages and disadvantages.

“That’s a good thing and a bad thing,” Morehead said. “They expect to win, and that’s good, but they also may be a little more apt to be a little less sharp.”

Morehead said the lack of adversity the women have faced in recent years might be their biggest weakness.

The men, on the other hand, are all too familiar with adversity.

The senior group has lost a pair of championships by a point, and that’s something Morehead thinks plays into their favor.

“They know what that sting feels like — not quite accomplishing (their goals),” he said.

Gavin Smellie, a senior sprinter who competed injured during the indoor season, said he’s ready to give it all he has at the outdoor conference meet.

“I’m pretty healthy for the most part, and I’m feeling more confident that I’ll do well,” Smellie said.

Even with leadership from strong senior classes on both sides, Morehead said championships are hardly a given on paper.

“If you just went down the list and scored the meet, our men would probably win by a significant margin and our women would probably lose by a few points,” he said. “But, that’s why we run the meet.”

He said one thing Western does well regardless of the season is score points across the board. For example, the Toppers may not win every event, but Morehead thinks each side has scoring potential in most events.

There are more events during outdoor season than indoor, which Morehead said benefits a well-rounded team like Western has this year.

Morehead, Morrison and Smellie all said they want the senior class to go out with a bang.

“We work toward making sure we beat everybody else,” Morehead said. “If you take time to focus on beating other teams, the times and distances are going to take care of themselves.”

STANDINGS

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

“Not playing these games hurts us because we were going into this weekend expecting the wins,” Smith said. “We were coming off a big win against Middle Tennessee and finally got some momentum.”

Regardless of the cancellations, the Lady Toppers remain in the hunt with South Alabama and Middle Tennessee to solidify their place in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on May 12.

Western must finish in the top eight teams in the conference by win percentage to earn a trip to the tournament.

At 6-10 in league play, South Alabama rounds out the top seven, followed by Western at 6-13 and Middle Tennessee at 5-17.

But while the series at Western was rained out, the Blue Raiders helped the Lady Toppers by dropping two games to Florida Atlantic in sunny Boca Raton, Fla., over the weekend.

After having the weekend off, Western will not have played a game since their 3-1 win over Middle Tennessee last Thursday. Western’s last conference win before that came on April 3 against Troy.

Smith said the drought between playing games is not a positive for the Lady Toppers, but they will make it that way.

“If the momentum isn’t there, we have to make it be there even without playing this whole week, and I think we’ll find a way to that,” Smith said. “Not having these games make us more hungry.”

Senior Rachelle Boucher said that although the rained out games hurt the

Lady Toppers’ momentum, it didn’t take their minds off the tournament.

“We are now more anxious to get out on the field again,” Boucher said. “We have a couple games left, and we have to go out strong.”

When Western goes to face off against the Blue Raiders one last time before the tournament this coming weekend, Smith said the team would be ready.

“We have to get those wins to continue our season,” Smith said. “We are going to lay it all out on the table. This is the time, do or die, now or never.”

Although the road to the conference tournament in Mobile, Ala., has been rocky for the Lady Toppers, Head Coach Tyra Perry said the team is where they need to be.

“Our destiny is in our own hands,” Perry said. “You can’t ask for more than that.”

FRIEDMAN

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

Friedman admitted that she tuned Hall out for the four years she spent on the soccer team, saying she was too “focused” on soccer to think about playing anything else.

But Hall finally convinced her, and Friedman said she’s glad he did — even though her reasons for running track were somewhat “selfish.”

“I was so upset about my soccer career ending that I thought this

could be a good transition for me,” she said. “I’ll still be part of a team, it will keep me busy and in shape too. Plus, I’m really enjoying it.”

It’s easy to enjoy something when you’re having success.

Friedman won the 5K race at the WKU invitational on April 24 as well as the steeplechase at Austin Peay on April 3. She also owns the third fastest time in the 3000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11:10 — 32 seconds behind the record.

Friedman said she’s ranked second in the steeplechase going in to

this weekend’s Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Championships.

Western soccer coach Jason Neidell said Friedman’s fitness was one of the main reasons he recruited her. But he also said her mentality is very important for someone competing in an individual sport.

Hall said Friedman is extremely focused and never wants to quit.

“She can run, she likes to run, and she hates to lose,” he said. “That’s just a great combination for a track athlete.”

COLUMN

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

“I need to be as visible as possible early because that just shows that we’re committed to being out there in the community,” he said.

But with time, Bjork will help Western expand beyond the Bowling Green community. Not because support in town is inadequate, but because the fanbase has to spread for the program

to reach the next level.

“We have 22,000 tickets that we can sell for football,” Bjork said. “Can we just rely on Bowling Green for that? Probably not. We need to reach out to the communities around us, and we want people to come down and enjoy the experience.”

A lot has changed in Bowling Green since a 23-year-old Bjork worked at Western in 1996.

The basement apartment that he rented 14 years ago for \$125 a month

still exists, but his base salary has increased by over \$175,000.

Western athletics have also been rejuvenated in a big way during that time.

The school won 70 conference championships over the past 11 years, but the near future will determine whether or not the program can reach even greater heights.

And with Bjork at the helm, more people will watch intently than ever before.

FAMILY

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

“He didn’t have any influence on me being on the team or not,” she said. “I didn’t want to go away to school.”

Growing up, Carrie True practiced against other Western tennis players, and the True family won the Kentucky Tennis Association “Family of the Year” Award twice.

Andy True is an assistant coach for the team, which Jeff True called a “good situation.” He said there were “built-in advantages” to having his son as an assistant coach.

He said Andy True understands his coaching style and gets along well with his old teammates.

“Andy did very well and related very well with the players, and I think they enjoyed him being there,” Jeff True said.

Tomi Krug, a senior from Doha, Qatar, said that he hasn’t seen any favoritism between Jeff True and his children.

“He treats everyone the same,” Krug said. “He gets angry at his kids as well.”

Priyank Gangadharan, a sophomore from Chennai, India, agreed.

“I would say everyone’s treated equal,” he said. “It’s not a big deal.”

A close family bond doesn’t always translate to success. Both the men and the women lost in the opening round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on April 23.

But it was Carrie True who led the Lady Toppers in wins with nine on the season.

“A lot of people would think that I would get special treatment, but that’s completely not true,” she said. “I put as much effort as I would with any other coach, if not more. It is hard at times.”

Jeff True said all of his children have been successful in the classroom or on the tennis court.

“When you look at their results, they pretty much speak for themselves,” Jeff True said. “It’s been a good situation for me — for them.”

Both Jeff and Carrie True say it’s not the same as other coach-player relationships. If there’s a disagreement with some of the teammates and the coach, Carrie True said she often sides with her Dad.

But she said that hasn’t earned her any favoritism.

“He expects me to be at every practice. He doesn’t let me get off any more than the other girls,” she said. “I’ve had to play hard to remain on the team.”

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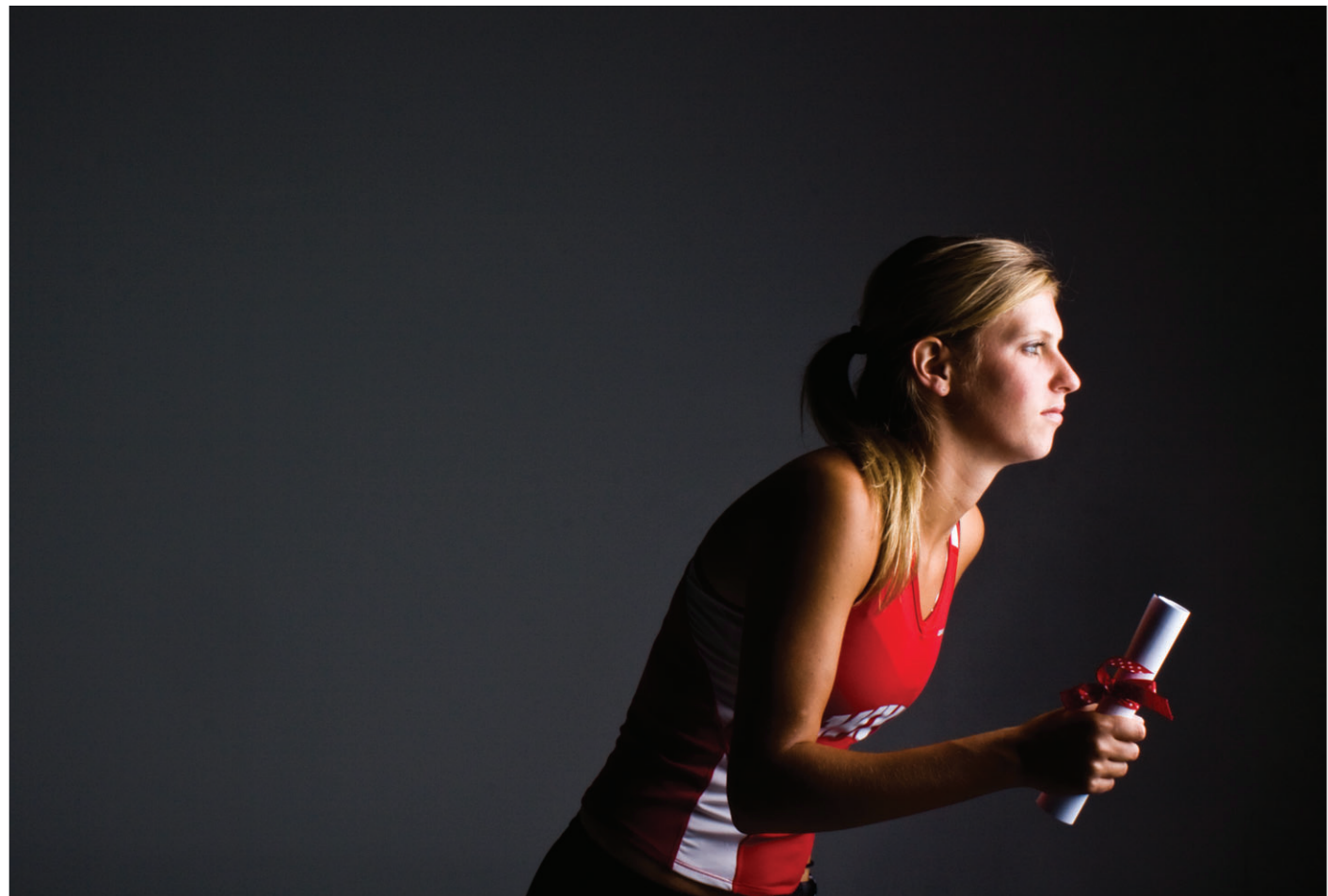
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PROFILE



Graduate student Rachel Friedman, of Swansea, Ill., runs steeple chase for Western's track team. She is pursuing her a master's degree in exercise science.

TANNER CURTIS/HERALD

Master of two

Friedman making the most of her time at Western

By COLE CLAYBOURN
sports@chherald.com

It's rare that a student athlete competes in a new sport after spending the NCAA's four years of allotted time in another.

It's even rarer when that athlete switches to a sport she's never played, but that's exactly the case for Rachel Friedman.

Friedman, who came to Western on a soccer scholarship, graduated in December with a degree in exercise science and is now working on her master's in the same field.

Friedman is now competing on the track team as a distance runner, even though she never ran in high school.

She said Duane Hall, the associate director of strength and conditioning of Western athletics, convinced her to join the track team once her soccer career was over.

"I always did well with the fitness testing, and I have all the fitness records," Friedman said. "Duane was also our strength coach and

told me that he wanted me to think about running track once my soccer career was over."

NCAA eligibility rules state that players are allowed five total years of eligibility, but only four per sport. Friedman didn't redshirt her freshman year and only used three and a half years of eligibility by playing soccer through the fall 2009 semester.

Friedman will have the rest of the spring season and all of next year to compete on the cross country and track teams.

Hall said Friedman's natural athleticism and ability to run is what made her an attractive fit for the track team, even though she'd never run track before.

"When it comes to track, you have to have a certain amount of genetic potential," he said. "Based on test results that I saw from working with the soccer team, she had genetic potential to be very successful. She's just a great athlete all around."

SEE FRIEDMAN, PAGE 15

SOFTBALL

Rained out games affect SBC standings

By EMILY PATTON
sports@chherald.com

Senior Shannon Smith sat patiently by the phone waiting for any news.

But any word that the clouds had parted, the rain had stopped and the Lady Toppers' series against conference foe South Alabama would go on never came.

Western's three-game series against the Jaguars was canceled due to severe weather in Bowling Green last weekend.

For Smith, that meant two things — no Senior Day and, more importantly, the Lady Toppers would have to wait another week for conference action.

SEE STANDINGS, PAGE 15

TENNIS

Team a True family affair

By TABITHA WAGGONER
sports@chherald.com

Some might assume that tennis Head Coach Jeff True lets his whole family on Western's team regardless of their talent. But he, his family and players say that's not the case.

True has been coaching the men's tennis team for 24 seasons, and he took over the women's tennis team in 2001. He's the all-time leader in Lady Topper tennis coaching victories.

True's sons — Kyle True, Chad True and Andy True — have all played tennis for Western. His daughter, Bowling Green junior Carrie True, currently plays for the team.

Carrie True said she wanted to play in college, and her father wasn't the only reason she ended up at Western.

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 15

COLUMN

Greater exposure high on Bjork's priority list

You can't blame new Athletics Director Ross Bjork for being excited.

Because for a guy who thrives on visibility and program support, being in Bowling Green is like letting a kid loose in a toy store.

Bjork wasn't exposed to the limelight much at UCLA, where he said Bruins basketball coach Ben Howland would be lucky to get attention from a handful of people on the street in Los Angeles.

That's probably why Bjork was a bit taken aback when he was recognized by his new dry cleaner after only a couple days in Bowling Green.

"Here, we have people that can touch our program," said Bjork, sitting in a conference room on his fourth day on the job, red towel pin attached to his lapel. "They can come to campus, they can see our student athletes, they can see our coaches out in the community."

And it's that "care-factor," a phrase Bjork has used several times, that will play a large role in his success at Western.

Make no mistake about it — a



ZACH GREENWELL
Press Row Perspective
sports@chherald.com

football program at the Football Bowl Subdivision level means something to Bjork.

He said college football's top tier means the greatest chance to gain awareness and resources. Bjork's experience at UCLA, Miami (Fla.) and Missouri has taught him that.

But working at those schools also meant fighting huge markets. Howland and many other coaches were just blips on the radar in those towns, and Bjork was almost completely off it.

But Western basketball coach Ken McDonald will turn heads



TANNER CURTIS/HERALD FILE

President Gary Ransdell introduces Ross Bjork as Western's new athletics director in the Topper Club at Houchens-Smith Stadium on March 12.

at Greenwood Mall. People will notice when football coach Willie Taggart takes his son to Waffle House for breakfast — and then tweets about it.

And apparently, Bjork will already garner some attention while dropping off laundry.

He was everywhere last week, from donor breakfasts to award

ceremonies to radio shows. That's all part of Bjork's plan to spread the Western brand.

SEE COLUMN, PAGE 15